

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

CADILLAC DISTRICT OFFICE
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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



494226

TO: Dan Darnell, Cadillac District Supervisor,
Groundwater Quality Division

FROM: Everett I. Bole, Cadillac District,
Groundwater Quality Division

DATE: August 6, 1985

SUBJECT: Michigan Consolidated Gas Company Coal Gasification Sites

On August 5, Tom Work and I met with Mr. Steven E. Kurmas and Mr. Jeffrey A. McKeen, representatives of Michigan Consolidated Gas Company (Mich Con), and their consultant from EDI Engineering & Science, Mr. Robert Masselink. The meeting concerned the several facilities which were operated in Michigan from the mid 1800's through the 1950's to manufacture combustible gas from coal. These operations and facilities were abandoned as natural gas supplanted coal gas usage. Recently, concerns arose that residual wastes from the activities at these sites might pose environmental or public health problems and Mich Con voluntarily initiated studies to make those determinations. The purpose of the meeting was to present the reports of preliminary findings at each of the Mich Con sites and to discuss the approach to the final studies on them.

Our District has four such sites: Dowland Street in Ludington, Pickard Avenue in Mt. Pleasant, and State Street in Big Rapids. The fourth site is located on Jones Street in Manistee and, as it is currently owned by the Consumers Power Company, Mich Con has undertaken no action other than notification to Consumers of the situation. Sampling and analysis of air, soil, and groundwater at the sites for volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, cyanide compounds, and phenols established that low levels of some of these materials do exist in the solid and liquid media at those sites, but that no significant human health or environmental hazards exist at those sites. However, further evaluation of soils and groundwater will be performed at the sites.

Mich Con and its consultant propose to choose two sites at which further evaluation will take place immediately. One site will be in Detroit and will be representative of the heavy soil conditions prevalent there, while the other will be Greenville, which is representative of the light porous conditions prevalent in the northern part of the State. After the successful conclusion of these evaluations at these sites and development of the general approaches to be used at each type of site, evaluation of the remaining sites using these approaches will begin. Mich Con and the consultant will work directly with the Districts on individual sites, but Tom Work will, in effect, be the overall coordinator of this approach to resolving these

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situations in our Compliance Section. Copies of all correspondence regarding these sites should be forwarded to him to enable him to track the situation.

Projected completion date of the Detroit and Greenville site evaluations is unknown to me at this time. I assume that either Tom or the consultant will advise us when those are completed and the ones in our District are scheduled to begin.

EIB/jkw

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